

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY  
PREHOSPITAL POLICY

Policy Reference No: 303  
Effective Date: 11/01/2008  
Supersedes: 10/01/2004  
Review Date: 11/01/2010

SUBJECT: MOBILE INTENSIVE CARE NURSE (MICN) AUTHORIZATION

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I. PURPOSE

To establish criteria for the local authorization of Mobile Intensive Care Nurses.

II. AUTHORITY

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 2, Section 1797.56; Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 1797.175; Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 1797.210; and Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 1797.213(a).

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Base Hospital – A hospital in San Luis Obispo County that is designated by contract with the EMS Agency to provide Advanced Life Support directions/orders to Paramedics.
- B. Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS Agency) - The EMS Agency is the local coordinating agency for San Luis Obispo County, and is the authorizing agency for MICNs.
- C. Field Training Officer (FTO) – A Paramedic designated by the EMS Agency to provide training to prehospital personnel and MICNs.
- D. MICN Authorization – The document that attests that an individual meets the criteria to provide on-line communications with Paramedics in San Luis Obispo County.
- E. Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) – A currently licensed Registered Nurse in the State of California who has completed both an EMS Agency approved MICN training or orientation program and the authorization process as prescribed in this policy. MICNs are authorized to facilitate online communications between Base Hospital physicians and Paramedics functioning on duty in the prehospital setting.

III. POLICY

- A. To practice as an MICN in San Luis Obispo County, the MICN must at a minimum possess a current and valid:

1. San Luis Obispo County MICN authorization
  2. California Registered Nurse license
  3. Basic Life Support - CPR certification issued by the American Heart Association (Healthcare Provider), American Red Cross (Professional Rescuer) or EMS Agency-approved equivalent
  4. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) provider certification issued by the American Heart Association
- B. Candidates who supply information found to be fraudulent shall be subject to the disciplinary process outlined in *Policy 309: Prehospital Personnel: License, Accreditation and Certification Disciplinary and Investigation Process*.
- C. Authorization shall be for a maximum of two years:
1. The effective date of authorization shall be the date the candidate meets all local requirements as demonstrated to the EMS Agency.
  2. The authorization shall expire two years from the MICN authorization date of issue.
  3. Currently authorized MICNs who are returning to a Base Hospital Emergency Room after an absence greater than 3 months shall receive an update from the Paramedic Liaison Nurse reviewing radio usage and any changes to EMSA policies, procedures, or protocols.

#### IV. PROCEDURE FOR INITIAL AUTHORIZATION

- A. To apply for MICN authorization, a candidate must be currently employed by a Base Hospital in San Luis Obispo County and possess a minimum of one year experience in emergency department nursing.
- B. All initial authorization candidates are required to successfully complete:
1. The San Luis Obispo County EMS Agency MICN authorization course.
  2. The SLO County EMS Agency MICN written examination with a minimum passing score of 80%. This test must be taken at the conclusion of the MICN authorization course and must be taken prior to the start of proctored radio calls and field observation time.
  3. An orientation to Base Hospital radio operation techniques and hardware provided by the Paramedic Liaison Nurse at the candidate's Base Hospital.

4. A minimum of fifteen (15) Paramedic radio calls proctored by authorized MICNs. A minimum of ten (10) calls must be ALS. A record of these proctored calls will be provided to the EMS Agency, including: date, time, and nature of the case (e.g., major trauma, syncope, chest pain). Each recorded call will be signed by the candidate and the proctoring MICN.
  5. Ten (10) hours of field observation time accompanying an FTO as follows: six (6) hours with an ALS Ambulance and four (4) hours with a non-transporting ALS agency. The supervising FTO will complete and sign the MICN Field Orientation Checklist. The candidate may elect to tour the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)/Med-Com of San Luis Obispo County in lieu of the four-hour field observation time with a non-transporting ALS agency. The candidate will provide documentation to the EMS Agency of this tour.
- C. Initial authorization candidates must provide copies of the following current documents to the EMS Agency in person, by mail, or by fax:
1. Completed EMS Agency MICN Application
  2. California Registered Nurse license
  3. Basic Life Support - CPR certification issued by the American Heart Association (Healthcare Provider), American Red Cross (Professional Rescuer) or EMS Agency-approved equivalent
  4. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) provider certification issued by the American Heart Association
  5. Letter confirming employment and at least one year of emergency department nursing experience from a San Luis Obispo County Base Hospital
  6. Completed MICN Field Orientation Checklist, including EOC/Med-Com visit documentation if applicable
  7. Record of proctored radio calls

## V. PROCEDURE FOR REAUTHORIZATION

- A. All reauthorization candidates shall meet the following continuing education requirements:
1. Attendance at a minimum of six (6) San Luis Obispo County Base Hospital meetings during each 12-month period preceding reauthorization
  2. Completion of the EMS Agency MICN authorization course and MICN written examination with a minimum passing score of 80%, or completion of the didactic portion of the EMS Agency Advanced Protocol Review course and MICN written examination with a minimum passing score of 80%

- B. MICNs with an expired authorization at the time of reauthorization shall complete the following as indicated:
1. Authorization expired up to 6 months: complete all items in Section V.A.
  2. Authorization expired from 6 months to 1 year: complete all items in Section V.A. and five (5) hours of field observation time accompanying an FTO on an ALS Ambulance.
  3. Authorization expired from 1 year to 2 years: complete all items in Section V.A. and ten (10) hours of field observation time accompanying an FTO on an ALS Ambulance.
  4. Authorization expired greater than 2 years: complete the initial authorization process.
- C. Reauthorization candidates must provide copies of the following current documents to the EMS Agency in person, by mail, or by fax:
1. Completed EMS Agency MICN Application
  2. California Registered Nurse license
  3. Basic Life Support - CPR certification issued by the American Heart Association (Healthcare Provider), American Red Cross (Professional Rescuer) or EMS Agency-approved equivalent
  4. Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) provider certification issued by the American Heart Association
  5. Letter confirming employment from a San Luis Obispo County Base Hospital.
- D. The MICN Course instructor shall evaluate any candidate who fails to successfully complete the testing and evaluation process and recommend to the EMS Agency Medical Director further evaluation or training, as required.
- E. As a condition of continued authorization, MICNs may be required to:
1. Successfully pass competency-based written examinations if the EMS Agency makes changes to the local scope of practice;
  2. Attend and pass mandated training meetings as may be required from time to time.
- F. Exceptions to MICN reauthorization requirements must be approved by the EMS Agency and the Medical Director.
- H. Candidates shall leave sufficient time to reauthorize. The San Luis Obispo County EMS Agency requires up to fourteen (14) calendar days to process applications.